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MANCHESTER: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1877.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.

FRASER IN A FOG.

AMES of Manchester is, if anything, clear-headed. He has numerous other qualities—a combination of other qualities-a combination of qualities, indeed, not found in many men-but in knowing what he wants to say, and in saying it in clear, chaste terms, he is almost John Bright's equal. How he has got into his present fog, therefore, on the question of Church Patronage we cannot for the life of us imagine. That he is in a fog on the subject is painfully patent to every person.

Speaking at Blackburn the other day, his Lordship tried to give the happy despatch to some of his critics in connection with the patronage that prevails in the Church. The Church of England, he said, knew nothing about congregations; it knew nothing but parishes; and this was an election by parishioners, in which everyone who boiled a pot had a vote. That was different to having an election confined to a select body as a congregation. In the other case the result had been most unfortunate, and the mode of election had been a most scandalous one. He had mentioned two things that were abused in the Church of England, and there were one or two other things he wished to mention. He wished them to realise the largeness and breadth of the Church of England. He had in his mind an important parish in this diocese where he had called attention to an abuse, and perhaps not without giving some offence. The Act of Parliament had given to a certain number of people a statutory right to seats in that parish church. When they ceased to be residents in the parish they claimed their pews. There were 16,000 people living in that parish, and there were only 300 free seats. He asked them if they could claim for their Church the true name of the Church of the people in the face of a fact like that. There were many painful things that he had to hear. He never took up the Manchester Examiner and Times, and read the letters by "Promotion by Merit"-although they might be much overcoloured and exaggerated—he could not read those painful revelations without wincing; he could not read them without shame, and feeling there were things that ought not to exist in the Church of England.

In some of the reports of this speech the Bishop was made to refer to Mr. Leatham, the member for Huddersfield; and thereupon the honourable gentleman sent the following note to the Examiner:-

" Misarden Park, Cirencester, 23rd Nov., 1877.

"Sir,-From the enclosed newspaper paragraph which has been forwarded to me by a friend it is clear that your good Bishop has mistaken the speech on Church Patronage delivered the other day by Mr. G. W. Latham for one of mine. May I trouble you to supply this correction?-"EDWARD A. LEATHAM." I remain, yours, &c.,

The Bishop, having a deservedly high reputation for accuracy, was annoyed at this, and consequently he addressed the following letter to the same paper, in which it duly appeared on Tuesday:-

"Sir,-It is quite true, I am afraid from my hasty reading, aliquando dormitant boni, I did confuse Mr. G. W. Latham, of Sandbach, with the honourable member for Huddersfield. As soon as I discovered my mistake I wrote to Mr. Leatham with an apology; and, as he is a generous opponent, I do not doubt that he will accept it. There was nothing personal in my remarks; but I thought it was a 'ladicrous travesty' of my sentiments to represent me as contented with the existing system of patronage in the Church of England, and also to suppose that when I spoke of election by the parishioners-the worst possible mode of choosing a minister—I meant the same thing as election by the congregation, which your vivacious correspondent, 'Promotion by Merit,' seems to consider the best. At least, he tells me that three-fourths of the Nonconformist ministers in England are so selected. Those, however, who may happen to have read an article in last week's City Jackdaw will have

observed that it is a method which does not satisfy everybody. In truth, the problem is not an easy one to solve.—Your obedient servant,

" Manchester, November 26."

" J. MANCHESTER.

Instead of making things better, however, this explanation only tended to increase the fog, as will be seen from the subjoined letter, from ourselves, in Wednesday's Examiner :-

"Sir,-The Bishop has rather misrepresented me, of course unintentionally, in the letter which appears in this day's Examiner and Times. His Lordship directs attention to an article in last week's City Jackdaw as proving that the election of ministers by the congregations themselves 'is a method which does not satisfy everybody.' The article in question was entitled 'Hearing Candidates,' and was, as stated, written by a Dissenter. It opened out in this way:-

Dissenter. It opened out in this way:—

"'Churchmen know nothing of the luxury, as they now nothing of the pain, of hearing candidates. Their pastors are chosen for them by wealthy patrons. We Dissenters, on the other hand, have to make the selection for ourselves. If there is much that is grand, there is also something that is pathetic, in the operation. When our pulpits become vacant through the resignation, removal, or death of our ministers, we begin to hear candidates from Sabbath to Sabbath, these candidates coming from all parts of the land, and being men of varied conditions and calibre. The congregation with which I chance to be connected has been engaged in this way for many months past, and we seem to be as far from a settlement as ever. Not that no good men have appeared before us, but none of them, so far, has struck us as the sort of man we want. Each of the number has had some special blemish or drawback in our eyes, while the whole lot have had faults in common.'

"The writer then went on to state what he considered to be the short."

"The writer then went on to state what he considered to be the shortcomings of the several candidates, afterwards concluding as follows:-

comings of the several candidates, afterwards concluding as follows:—
""No doubt our excellent Bishop is sorry for us. He would tell us that
our system is at fault, that if we had enjoyed the patronage system of the
Established Church we would have been spared all this anxiety and bother,
and been in possession of a minister long ere now. But then we prefer
doing the thing in our own way. Though sometimes troublesome to think
for ourselves, we can bear with the trouble because we value the right.
Things will come all square yet. We do not quarrel with one another, we
do not tear each other's eyes out, we possess our souls in patience, believing that a man to our liking will turn up some day. Burely, there must
be some natural men in the ministry still—men who can pray, read, and
preach as men might be expected to do, and not as ranting actors or tailors'
dummies. If there be, will one of them come and get us out of our
present little difficulty?"

"The difficulty of the writer and his fellow-members seems to be to get a minister to their taste; but they have no doubt as to their success in the end. Not a word was said in the whole article to indicate that they were dissatisfied with the existing mode of election, or would prefer the patronage system of the Church, which Bishop Fraser himself declines to justify or defend .- Yours truly, " THE CITY JACKDAW.

"51, Spear Street, Nov. 27."

"Promotion by Merit," no doubt, will also have his say on the subject, and it is just likely, considering that he is so vivacious, and usually hits so hard, that he will make Fraser's fog denser than ever. In the meantime, let us exercise all charity, and do what we can to extricate his Lordship. He tells us that he does not fancy the existing Patronage system in the Church. Who does? He likewise informs us that he has no faith in the choice of clergymen being left in the hands of parishioners. What then? The bulk of Dissenters, as our correspondent pointed out, select their own ministers, each congregation for itself. Can Bishop Fraser suggest any improvement upon this plan? If Poor Law Guardians and Members of Parliament are selected by those most intimately concerned, why should a similar arrangement not succeed in the case of Church clergymen and Dissenting ministers? If not, why not? Will his Lordship kindly tell us?

SONGS OF THE DAY .- No. I.

BY FIGARO JUNIOR.

N Manchester there is a man Whose name is Johnny King, An Alderman of Council he, And 'tis of him I sing.

There is another Alderman,
And Bennett is his name,
And he was Johnny's partner in
A curious little game.

Now King and Bennett both had heard Of Biggar and Parnell, And, fired with emulation, thought They'd try to do as well.

So, when the Council came to talk About the tramway scheme, A glorious opportunity It unto them did seem.

They laid their heads together and Resolved to spoil the plan, And make poor Abel Heywood wild— So thus the two began—

Said King, "Sir Joseph is not here To snuh and keep us down, Or use us in a way that moves The laughter of the town.

"Come let us play the very deuce, And have a jolly spree; Let's set the Council by the ears, And put 'em up a tree."

Said Bennett, "Right you are, dear boy, Now Joseph Heron's gone, I feel as frisky as a lamb, A kitten, or a fawn.

"I'm up for any mortal game
You're able to propose;
D'ye want to rabble little Reade,
Or pull the Mayor's nose?"

"Oh! no," said John, "he's much too big; I want to make a row About this precious tramway scheme— I s'pose you see it now?"

"Quite so," said Bennett, "that's the trick, Let's knock it on the head;" And off they to the Council went To do as he had said.

Now after they had talked a spell They saw it was no use, They never would convince the house By elegant abuse.

So King bethought him of a way To save them from defeat, And he and Bennett went around And offered to stand treat.

They said to several thirsty souls—
Those thirsty souls to win—
"If you will leave the Council-room
We'll stand a sup o' gin."

You see this wily couple knew, That when they took a vote, If there were not the forty-two, It was not worth a groat.

And though poor Batty stormed and raved, Some half-a-dozen men Went out to have the sup o' gin And then came in again.

But when they came it was too late—
The voting was all done;
And when they came to count the heads
There were but forty-one.

And so the meeting was adjourned,
That puzzled Talbot might
Find out with Joseph how they best
Could set the matter right.

And King and Bennett roared and said,
"What funny dogs are we!"
For joy they went to Albert Square
And played at leap-froggy.

And after that the pious Ben To Conference did go, With all the shepherds at the courts In Strangeways—as you know.

While there he looked so unctuous That everybody thought "Oh! what a holy man is this That our good Church has caught."

But he, poor saint, was ill at ease,
For something crossed his mind—
A thought so dreadful that himself
To drown he was inclined.

Thought he, "If when the Council meets, Sir Joseph should come down! Oh! Lord, I think I'd better go A fortnight out of town."

And King he had the self-same thought— And all the live-long night He could not sleep one blessed wink For trouble and for fright.

Oh! how they wished they'd never tried To imitate Parnell; And each he blamed the other sore For trying such a sell.

But when the Council met again Sir Joseph was not there, And so they wore their boldest face 'And said they didn't care.

They tried the little game again, But as they did not stand More gin, they left the room alone— This precious little band.

And so their playful purpose failed,
While people hissed and laughed,
And said "We always thought Ben mad,
And King is getting daft!"

[MORAL.

When Aldermen can play such tricks, What should we be about? Why, when the next election comes, We'll simply—turn 'em out.

SALFORD TORIES HANGING OUT THEIR BANNERS.

F there is one event in the year to which I look forward with more interest and expectation than another, it is the annual meeting of the Salford Constitutional Association. My temperament is such that I soon get tired of theatres, concerts, and all kinds of stock amusements, but of the Constitutional Association meeting, never. sociation were to hold a meeting weekly, I should always endeavour to attend it, so great is the amusement which it affords me. It was, therefore, with no ordinary gratification I learned that the members were about to hold on Monday, not their annual meeting, but what answered just as well, a meeting connected with the presentation of a banner to that intelligent and enlightened body, and you may imagine that my feelings were still more strongly excited at finding that not only "Holy Ned" Hardcastle, and the man "whose initials are ciphers and whose name is Walker," would attend, but that my revered representative, the illustrious W. T. Charley, was to take the chair-this, if I am not mistaken, being his first appearance in Salford, in a political character, since his sudden and mysterious disappearance during the last election. Of course I at once decided to go, and went, getting into the Salford Town Hall just about the time when the room began to present the appearance which places where the Salford Constitutionalists meet usually do, that is, a resemblance to what I can imagine Pandemonium to be like. The distinguishing characteristics of the assembly were unwashed faces, dirty hands, gaping mouths, and very low foreheads. The preliminary amusement was of the usual facetions character. First they would sing a snatch of a song everyone in a different key, and, when this had lost its novelty, set up a yell of that peculiar kind which only Salford Constitutionalists can manage to perfection. The monotony was occasionally varied by the interchange

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of conversation, more or less decent, between persons at different ends of the room, whereat all the meeting laughed a laugh which none but Salford Constitutionalists or hyenas ever attempt. Of course this innocent recreation did not prevent them from staring intently, with open mouths, at the banner resting against the wall, and which to them evidently seemed a very triumph of art. And, indeed, the banner was rather an astonishing production-as banners usually are-though no doubt in its way very excellent. The side turned towards us at the time of which I speak bore a confused sort of device, which at first I took to be a bird cage resting on a set of fire irons, both being supported by a butcher's block, but which I afterwards found to be a crown with, I suppose, the sword and sceptre, borne on a book which was no doubt intended to represent one of Mr. Charley's great legal works. When the other side was turned towards us, later on, its appearance was truly remarkable, and quite justified the yells with which it was greeted. The chief feature was the full-length portrait of someone that might have been either a man or the "missing link," and which, from the inscription, was actually intended to represent Holy Ned. I am at present unable to decide whether the portrait looked most like that of a small tradesman in his Sunday clothes, or a heavy melodramatic father. Having paid no money towards it, I am not under the necessity of making any choice.

But presently the side door opened, and, amid cheers and yells and shouts, to which the preceding ones were nothing, in walked Holy Ned, looking more sanctimonious than ever; the cipher-man, looking very nervous and shame-faced; and the chairman, the great Charley himself, whose appearance forcibly reminded me of that of a boy who had the day before received a sound caning, and who creeps sheepishly and unwillingly to school. After them came the important Robinson, the Goody-goody Goulden, the benevolent but weak-minded Birley, and a lot of smaller fry-and how small Tory small fry are! When they had got into their places the real fun of the evening began. First, there was Charley's speech, eulogising himself, the banner, Mr. Walker, Mr. W. T. Charley, Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. W. T. Charley, and the disinterested patriots who so kindly sent him to St. Stephen's. Often as I have heard Mr. Justice-confound it, I always am thinking of him as a Judge-Mr. W. T. Charley's eloquence, legal and political, on this occasion he surprised me. His philosophical definitions of Toryism in Salford, his lucid and convincing arguments, his impassioned rhetoric, and the valiant way in which he "fleshed his steel in the pachydermatous Radical hide"-to quote a phrase he once coined-all took the Salford Constitutionalists by storm. When, his eye with a fine frenzy rolling, he exclaimed-"Let this banner remind you of your duty to God: His banner over us was Love," we all could have wept pious tears-though to some narrow carping, snarling people, this implied parallel between the Salford Constitutionalists' flag and any banner used in Heaven might have seemed absurd, not to say blasphemous. When, continuing, and becoming still more impassioned, he thundered, "Let this banner remind you it is your duty to ascend-Excelsion!" our emotion threatened to become overpowering, and when in a magnificent peroration, delivered with all his wonderful declamatory power, he told us that, in addition to serving as a reminder of Heavenly banners, and of our climbing obligations, the new flag was to bring to our remembrance the mighty deeds of Nelson and Wellington, could we-though not quite seeing the connection-fail to clasp our hands, raise our eyes to the ceiling, and thank the Fates that we were represented by such an astonishing genius as Mr. Charley? And to the Fates alone our good luck is evidently due, for subsequently Mr. Goody-goody Goulden related with charming candour how, in 1868, when the Salford Constitutionalists were in a bad way, and knew not where to look for anyone verdant enough to stand as their candidate he, Goulden, the deus ex mâchina of the Salford Tories, heard of this native of the Emerald Isle as being a likely man (you see somebody evidently knew Mr. Charley before his advent in Salford), and how the said Charley knew nothing about this cruel project of Goulden's, and was sitting quietly in his study, no doubt thinking over his great legal works, when a Mephistophelian solicitor (Mr. Goulden himself, I suppose) came and tapped him on the back, and said, "Charley, my boy, you're wanted." The story is delightful; it is perfectly idyllic, but at the same time it was rather indiscreet, for it can hardly be flattering to the Salford Constitutionalists, or to Mr. Charley himself, to be told that a selection which no doubt they had hitherto supposed to be due to personal merit, was really owing to a forlorn chance. After Mr. Charley had finished, a man got up in the middle of the room

and insisted on making a speech, much to the annoyance of the big-wigs

on the platform, though as he was evidently a useful canvasser they did not venture to snub him. So he talked himself out and then that shining municipal light, Councillor Hall, did the same, and made way for cipher Walker. Poor Walker! What dreadful crime hast thou committed that thou shouldst have to expiate it by such severe pains and penalties? It really makes one's heart bleed to see this worthy man and "regular screw struggling to make a speech, without having the slightest notion of what he ought to say. The poor man is at zero all over, a blank both in name and ideas. The only thing he seems to know clearly is that the British constitution is a glorious institution, and every one of his bald trite commonplaces can be easily translated into this. One may imagine his mental state when he himself tells us that he has been under Mr. Charley's guidance in the House, and the senior member has given him counsel on various subjects! This, indeed, is the blind leading the blind. We didn't laugh at him. Such bottomless inanity is too saddening for mirth. The chief thought in my mind was that the end of the world must be nigh when even the Salford Constitutionalists could prefer Mr. Walker to Mr. Kay. In one way he is intensely interesting, and that is as a pyschological study, for it is not every day we meet a man who thinks and actually says that Holy Ned's service to the Salford Constitutional Association will hand down his illustrious name to the latest posterity. Even Ned himself looked embarrassed at this, for, after all, he is not so stupid as not to know that he would be utterly forgotten about six weeks after his death, except, of course, by his relatives. Perhaps it was this depressing thought that made him unusually serious at the beginning of his speech, though he soon got over it and launched out into an elaborate and long-drawn-out joke about Mr. Charley's eminent political services. All this time, of course, the Constitutionalists were roaring and yelling at intervals, some of the more irreverent varying the programme by making jokes at the chairman's expense, which Mr. Charley evidently tried to enjoy, but miserably failed. He, for one, was unmistakably glad when the business was over and the Constitutionalists went away proud of the possession of a banner, the brilliant colours of which may long be to them as emblematic as the rainbow was to Noah-another good Conservativeunless when it is next brought out the gallant standard bearers get more than usually inebriated and drop it in the mud.

IN ANTICIPATION.

BY OUR OWN CYNIC.

IS said that Christmas comes but once a year—As if one ever dreamed it could come twice; That when it comes it brings with it good cheer, Such as roast beef, ale flavoured well with spice, Puddings and pies and everything that's nice. This may be so to some folks: I have reason To thoroughly abominate the season. Item the first: it's generally cold, It snows, and snow I hate just like the deuce;
The frost, they say, will make one smart and bold—
For my part I can't see it's any use,
And, therefore, always treat it with abuse;
I'd rather have a brilliant day in summer—
Pines don't hurst than to benefit the always. Pipes don't burst then to benefit the plumber. Secundus. Wine and game come full addressed To you or me in such and such a street; We thank our unknown friend, nor feel oppressed With any doubts about his handsome treat. The game's not bad, the wine—well, rather sweet. A few days pass and then, much to our terror, We get a bill—the goods were sent in error. Thirdly, and worst of all, that mistletoe, Whose introducer certainly was mad— No man of sense would lend himself to go To such extremes of taste, so shocking bad He may of course have been some spoony lad. Against this youth I wish to bear no evil, I only trust long since he's found-his level. What's this? a note, unopened, too, from Jones-I really wonder what it's all about!

A promise to repay his numerous loans—
An intimation that he's got the gout, And at the Thatched House dare not take his stout! Yes! No! Confound it, I'm a precious sinner,

He swears I'm booked for his next Christmas dinner.

W. ARONSBERG, Optician to the Royal Eye Hospital, 12, Victoria Street, Manchester.

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Persons who wish to see the City Jackdaw regularly are respectfully recommended to order it of their Newsagent, otherwise, they may be, and often are, disappointed in not being able to obtain copies. Or, it will be sent by post from the Publishing Office, 51, Spear Street, Manchester, every week for half-a-year on payment of 3s. 3d. in advance, being posted in time for delivery at any address each Friday morning.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

One of Leonard Bright's complete short Stories of Manchester Life is given in the City Jackdaw nearly every week. The following have already appeared :

BROKEN DOWN-In No. 99, October 5, 1877.

HEAVY HEARTS-In No. 101, October 19, 1877.

THE BOLTED DOOR-In No. 102, October 26, 1877.

CLARA BROWN-In No. 103, Nov. 2, 1877.

BOUND HAND AND FOOT-In No. 104, Nov. 9, 1877.

MRS. ALLGOOD'S SECRET .- In No. 105, Nov. 16, 1877.

WON BY A NECK .- In No. 106, Nov. 23, 1877.

Copies of the papers containing these Stories will be sent by post from the Publishing Office for 11d. each.

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING.

HAT the Bishop of Manchester and the Bishop of Carlisle did have a set-to, as was expected, in the Free Trade Hall on Tuesday evening.

That both agreed in advocating the claims of the Church of England Temperance Society, with reference to the water supply.

That their Lordships had intended to refrain from mentioning Thirlmere in the interests of peace; but couldn't.

That Harvey of Carlisle now recognises the inconsistency, not to say the cruelty, of decreasing our beer supply, without at the same time increasing our water supply.

That Christmas is once more in sight.

That the Christmas books will be published about midsummer next year. That the heavenly display of fireworks was a great success on Friday

That the brilliant meteor, in particular, was a complete caution. That it lighted up the land beautifully on Friday and has fairly illuminated the columns of the daily papers ever since.

That each district and town thought the meteor was intended specially for its edification and delight.

That it is reported to have fallen in at least a hundred different places, many of them miles upon miles apart.

That some of the writers must have been mistaken.

That others must have been seeing double.

That Russia means to annex Armenia.

That Beaconsfield will then begin to talk about British interests, our great Indian Empire, and so on.

That the situation is daily becoming more and more critical.

That for us to fight on the side of Turkey would bring upon the present race of Englishmen everlasting disgrace.

That the Prime Minister and the Government must be told so in no unmistakable terms.

That Marshal Macmahon's stock of wisdom is not on the increase.

That he is straining the Constitution to the snapping point.

That a theologian is engaged upon an abstruse work entitled " The Dissent of Man."

That thereby hangs a tale-against the Nonconformists.

That a grand point against the Established Church is that in the Church of Adam and Eve the worshippers did not wear vestments (fig leaves) until after they were disestablished.

That Mr. Hardcastle, M.P., has been presented with a banner by the Constitutionalists of Salford.

That the hon, member for South-East Lancashire does not know what to do with the rag.

That the whole thing was one of Charley's clumsy jokes.

That Hardcastle swears he will be revenged.

That the great suit of Williamson versus Barbour is finished, at least at present.

That the commission agents of Manchester looked like so many condemned criminals yesterday.

That they don't mean to cave in, for all that,

That the customs of trade play a prominent part in the English Constitution.

That the Master of the Rolls has never been in business.

That Mr. W. H. Houldsworth becomes a better Tory every time he opens his mouth.

WILLIAMSON VERSUS BARBOUR.

ELL, well, well! Sir George Jessel, the Master of the Rolls, has gone and done it. His decision amounts to this, that a very large proportion of the merchants of Manchester have been, and are, carrying on their business in a fraudulent manner. He even hints that they might be placed in the prisoners' dock as so many swindlers. This, no doubt, is extremely nice, as well as comforting. Amongst the defendants in this famous action are some of the best known and most highly respected men in the commercial world. Nor is their reputation less distinguished in the world of philanthropy and religion. Yet, according to the decision just given in the High Court of Justice. they must now throw open their books for a rigid examination and be prepared, if required, to repay £100,000, of which they are alleged to have defrauded the Calcutta house to which they acted as the Manchester representatives. After the many things which Sir George Jessel had said during the trial we are not surprised at the judgment. But we disagree with it none the less on that account. It is all very well to ignore what constitute the customs of trade. If these are to be ignored, however, trade will become even duller than it is now. Innumerable houses, indeed, might just as well put up their shutters at once. Wherever one man does business with another man, certain customs-the growth of experience and the accumulation of years-are observed. That is known to cattle salesmen, solicitors, barristers, architects, and auctioneers as well as to merchants and mercantile agents. Yet, according to this decision, trade customs count as nothing, not even, as was the case with at least one member of the plaintiffs' firm, though the parties who consider themselves aggrieved are perfectly familiar with these customs. Legally, technically, the defendants may have had no right to charge any more than their one per cent as the plaintiffs' agents. As a matter of fact, the plaintiffs did not need to be told that the defendants could not do all the business which they did for them for anything like one per cent. The case has lasted several years already. It is not ended yet, albeit Sir George Jessel has made known his decision. Higher courts will have their say on the subject. In the meantime, the merchants and agents of Manchester have no great cause to throw themselves into a state of flutter and alarm. If our courts of law are to trample on our trade customs they might as well close the history of England at once and consign the United Kingdom to the bottom of the sea. We cannot think that they are prepared to do either the one or the other.

"MY UNCLE."

[BY THE ANTIENT PISTOL.]



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Y LOVE the good old man, and who shall chide my partiality? In my playfully affectionate moments I make little rhymes—sweet sportive versicles about him. Here is a sample:—

> When money matters go not well, Who is it out the cash must shell, To fustain-coat and hard-up swell? My Uncle.

Who hangs his golden symbols out—
A beacon bright when cash is out—
Who puts our raiment up the spout?
My Uncle.

It is not because my uncle is a financier, and seems to have always a stock of that which his impecunious nephews and nieces are sadly deficient in, that I respect him.

I look up with loving awe to him, not because he has armorial bearings, derived, it is said, from some princely Lombard merchant of the past, and uses by right the motto of "two to one." No! I love him for his confiding nature and for his simple and unaffected manners. My unole, unlike some of my well-to-do relations, is never too proud to speak to me; and I remember that, on my first introduction to him, he presented his card with the utmost condescension.

My foot is often on his threshold, but he never discourages my visits. On the contrary, when I visit his establishment he courteously places a private box at my service, and I rarely come away without a token of his regard. Our uncle, although a kindly creature, has his peculiar ways. When he receives a visit from any of his numerous nephews and nieces, he jealously exacts from them a slight souvenir—a "pledge" of their esteem, lest they should grow cold to the good man, or lest they should forget him or he them. These exactions are sometimes a little trying to certain members of our family, but the time never was when poor relations had not to submit to the caprices of uncles.

These pledges form a motly collection. My uncle, who flatters my literary vanity, once employed me to compile a catalogue of them, but I must say that he was severely critical, and found great fault with my style of classification. With an eye to dramatic effect I sought out the most striking contrasts, and enumerated them with a plentiful display of marks of exclamation. The following will suffice as a sample:—

"Flutes, flat-irons, and fiddles; diamond rings and brass-eyeletted clogs; jewelled shirt studs and second-hand chemisettes; 'Matthew Henry's Commentary' and 'Don Juan,' 'Baxter's Saint's Rest' and 'Tom Jones;' coffin cards and fiddle strings; quilts, counterpanes, artificial teeth, perambulators, baby-jumpers, and wooden legs."

Will it be believed, the unlettered old pump could not see the beauties of this arrangement?

There are various modes of pawning. Some have the countenance of good society, and others are regarded as low. When a man pledges houses or land for the repayment of a loan, he is said to give a mortgage—he walks boldly into a solicitor's office and signs the legal instruments without a blush; but when a man is about to deposit his watch as security for an advance, he walks past his uncle's door several times ere he can muster courage to enter, and conducts the whole business in a shame-faced manner, and all because my uncle is regarded with disfavour in polite circles. When a person deposits railway scrip or Government bonds as security, he is said to hypochecate them; but it would not be considered correct to say that Mrs. Molony had hypothecated her smoothing-iron for threepence, or an unmentionable article of female attire for sixpence. In her case the term is "pop," "pledge," or "spout."

That "hypothecate" is a good word. It enabled me to baulk the curiosity of an inquisitive friend who asked me the other day what had become of my watch. I said it had been hypothecated, and that it was necessary to leave it for a few days. He evidently thought the phrase related to some alteration or new motion; but he embarrassed me somewhat a few nights after by asking me, in the presence of several friends, what a good hypothecated watch would cost, and whether it would keep good time.

My uncle has never been presented at court. I wish he could. Many

attempts have been made to mitigate the vulgarity which is supposed to attach to his shop. He has called his place of business an "Advance and Loan Agency," "The Equitable Loan Company," and I know not what beside, but the vulgar public will persist in calling it a pop shop.

There are certain points of etiquette to be observed in matters that relate to my uncle. It is not usual to stick his card in the frame of your pier glass, or to exhibit it along with those of your other friends on your

parlour or drawing-room table.

If you should meet a lady of your acquaintance on a Monday morning with a large bundle under her shawl, it would be highly indelicate to ask her where she is going; and although at any other time she might resent your non-recognition of her, she will pardon you if on this occasion you pass her by unheeded. Again, if a lady chance to recognise the back hair of a friend in one of those recesses provided by my relative, it is considered indecorous to give her greeting in such a place, and, except under the most emotional circumstances, neither will refer to their visits to my process.

It is not alone people of the working-man class that patronise my uncle. It is said that Attenbury, the prince of pawnbrokers, could tell tales of members of the peerage that would make countesses blush through the thickest coat of ronge.

Some years ago, I made the acquaintance of a faded man of fashion, who, in computing the value of any article, always took as his basis the probable amount which a pawabroker would lend upon it. Although his manners and conversation betokened culture and good breeding, he had outlived the sense of shame which keeps men, as a rule, silent about the equivocal uncle, and I learned afterwards that he often picked up a little money by doing the errands of very fashionable people, at the Sign of the Three Balls.

If he saw an attractive ring on the finger of a gentleman in whose company he happened to alight, he would politely beg to be allowed a closer inspection.

"Pardon me, sir," he would say, "that's a very beautiful ring. It cannot have cost you less than twenty guineas. I pledged one at Attenbury's the other day, not a whit better than this, for ten pounds."

If the conversation turned upon watches, he became enthusiastic.

"Talk of watches, gentlemen! no one can appraise the value of a watch better than I can; I have pledged more than any man in England." If any of his acquaintances presented themselves before him in a new

coat, they had to submit to a critical inspection.

"That's an elegant garment, sir, it is upon my word—capital fit, splendid material. It has cost you—shall we say?—from three to three ten. I'm sure they would not offer me less than thirty-five shillings on it round the corner."

Ah! but it's a sorry place, that "round the corner," and not perhaps a fitting subject for jests. Its contents tell a sorrowful tale of galling misfortunes, of ruined and disrupted homes, of drunkenness, unthrift, vice, sorrow, suffering, and of utter, abject penury. But enough—people only laugh when "the Antient" grows pathetic!

DECLINED WITH THANKS.

VALUED correspondent sent us the following for appearance under the heading of "What Folks are Saying;" but as we have no admiration for poor puns, we must let the contribution figure by itself on its own demerits:—

That the Diocesan Conference came to a Nunnderstanding about one important matter.

That that was unDeaniably the maintenance of the union between Church and State.

That the Rev. W. G. Kennedy does not Ken a deal of the duty of a Christian.

That the Rev. Canon Hornby likes the subject of Bungals to be discussed.

That the Rev. E. D. Bannister's remarks about the Church and "one political party" are calculated to make the Tories stare.

That, though the Bishop does not like making himself a gny, he has no objection to be a spiritual guyd.

That the recollection of this fact must have Guyded the Rev. G. A. Atkinson to speak of "burning questions."

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A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND.

T is always a melancholy thing to see a man for whom one may entertain respect and even regard going to the bad; and it is, we take it, also a source of sorrow to notice signs of deterioration in a public We have for a considerable time past kept a sharp look-out upon the proceedings of a very valuable public body in Salford-the Board of Guardians-and we are sorry to say we have been gradually coming to the conclusion that that body is, as we heard it phrased on one occasion, "improving the wrong way about." We remember the time when "all What business the guardians had to transact they went was peace." through in an orderly, business-like fashion; they had, in the person of Mr. Thomas Dickins, a J.P. of no little importance, a chairman of whom they evidently thought highly, and who presided over their deliberations in a very satisfactory manner; and they appeared to be duly impressed with the fact that they had important duties to perform, and that they must all work together for the good of the union. We would not for a moment hint that the gentlemen now composing the Board-and the composition of the Board is pretty much the same now as it was in the happy days gone by-do not recognise that considerable responsibility rests upon them, and that the ratepayers expect them to show themselves real as well as titular guardians, not only of the poor, but of the inhabitants generally, but certainly the disposition of the Board is woefully changed indeed. We look in vain for the former quietness and absence of bickering and feeling, we mark a tendency to quibble over minor as well as more important matters, and we notice a sad want of We don't mean to insinuate that the Salford Board of Guardians is threatening to become the rival of the famous Local Boards of Health of Swinton and Pendlebury-Heaven forbid; but, while matters have not assumed so serious a shape as that, we must confess to being of late far from satisfied with the mode and spirit in which subjects are debated and business transacted by our Salford Poor-Law friends. Mr. Dickins still remains the Chairman of the Board, but we are rather inclined to think that he is scarcely so good a chairman as he We doubt whether he is quite firm enough with used to be. his flock, and yet we are not at all disposed to saddle him with all or even the larger portion of the blame. We very much fear that there are many turbulent souls upon the Board, who show sometimes and oftentimes a singular forgetfulness of the ordinary rules of debate, and who really require ruling with a rod of iron. It not unfrequently happens that Mr. Dickins' seat has to be filled by some other gentleman, and upon such occasions there is, so far as we can gather, but little if any difference in the behaviour of members, leading to the supposition that there in something radically wrong with the members as a whole. From what we observed recently in a Salford contemporary it would seem that we are not alone in our opinion respecting the want of order at the Board. One of the guardians wrote to our contemporary complaining of inaccuracy in a report of a Board meeting, and in the same issue as that in which the letter was published appeared an explanatory note from the reporter whose report was questioned, in which it was stated that the consideration of the matter referred to was "conducted in such an irregular manner-every member of the Board trying to speak upon it at once-that it was very difficult to understand what each of them individually meant." Surely such a state of things as this is anything but creditable to an important public body. Only on Friday last, when proceeding to take into consideration a subject which had been adjourned for a fortnight, and upon which, one would have thought, every member would therefore have been informed and ready to express his views and vote, the discussion threatened to become so irregular-members asking questions and addressing one another, in such disregard of standing orders and simular regulations—that the Board actually resolved itself into committee so that gentlemen might be at liberty to speak how and when and as often as they pleased. And we have another bone to pick with the guardians. We always admire a man who has the courage of his opinions, and who strives manfully to carry the motion which out of all honesty he has brought forward, but if the vote is adverse to the motion, and it is lost, the proper course is, we take it, to accept the verdict of the majority and let the matter drop. But some of our friends at the Salford Board of Guardians do not look at things in this light, it would seem. They go in for the "no surrender" business the whole hog, and if they are beaten, or are dissatisfied with the result on discussion at one meeting, they give notice that they will "have another Then, too, the dissensions now-a-days are go " at the next meeting.

not so good humoured as in the days of yore, and altogether there has been a change for the worse. We are inclined to the belief that this alteration had its origin in the Hope Hospital business, which generated a good deal of heat; but whatever may have been the cause, the effect remains, and we can only say "'Tis true 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true."

BRITISH INTERESTS.

PRITISH interests! Yes; we mean to protect them to the last drop of our blood. But what are they? Are Turkey and England so bound up together that the fall of the one implies the collapse of the other? The Tory press says so. The Earl of Beaconsfield says the same thing. That is no reason why we should not think the matter out for ourselves. The current of events shows that each man of us will have to face the situation as best we may. Beaconsfield means war-war for the Turk. Not if we know it. He says that when Turkey goes, we go too. Not a bit of it. That the sky is black overhead, we all know. Russia is winning. Russia is going to crush Turkey in her iron grasp. Beaconsfield is alarmed. Beaconsfield begins to rave of British interests. We think we know what these are quite as well as he does. More English blood flows in our veins than in his. Yet the power of position is on his side, and he solemnly assures us that our interests are at stake. More than that, he has made up his mind to take part in the war if-thank God for that "if"-we will only let him. His little game is simple enough. Russia will double up Turkey. Russia will naturally demand some substantial compensation for the terribly heavy losses which she has sustained in lives and lucre. As to the emancipation of the Bulgarians, that will be secured. But Russia will require compensation. Where is she to get it? In Armenia, of course. Turkey in Asia, or a large part of it, will be added on to Russia. What then? Beaconsfield will interpose. He will talk largely of British interests. He will assert that with Russia in possession of Asia Minor our whole Indian Empire would crumble to ashes and the Empress of India herself become a mere myth. This is the card he expects to play. It is by this means that he intends to drag us into this dreadful and disastrous war. He will quote authorities in support of his arguments. Mr. Layard, one of his authorities, lately said this :-"It must not be forgotten that the possession of Armenia by Russia as regards any designs that she may have upon India, supposing her to entertain them, would be very different from that of any part of Turkestan or Central Asia. In Armenia and the north of Persia she would have a hardy and abundant population, affording her excellent materials for a large army, ready at any time to advance upon our Indian frontier, and resting upon a convenient and sure base of operations, in direct communication, by the Caspian Sea and by Batoum, with the heart of the Russian Empire. The moral effect of the conquest of Armenia and the annexation of Ghilan and Mazanderan by Russia upon our Mahommedan subjects, and upon the populations of Central Asia, cannot be overlooked by a statesman who attaches any value to a retention of India as part of the British Empire." It might be vulgar, but it would be none the less true, to set down all this as so much twaddle, rubbish, rot. Russia has no more intention of attempting to drive us out of India than we have of seating ourselves in the easy chair which is at present occupied by the Man in the Moon. We have no more right to object to Russia annexing Armenia than Russia would have had to our annexing the Fiji Islands or the Transvaal Republic. Nor will the one affect the British interests any more than the others affected Russian interests. Though we are Englishmen, let us be sensible, reasonable. When British interests have to cling to My Lord Beaconsfield as their chief champion, then, in Heaven's name, woe betide them!

THE TABLES TURNED.

T was the duty of John Smith, a private in the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, to charge the enemies of his country when necessary, but the other day he was charged himself at the City Police Court—with having, as the Yankees say, "burgled" somebody, and he got four months' imprisonment as a consequence. If things like this continue, what will become of our valiant army? We shall need guarding from our own guards, or, mayhap, be compelled to sound the call to arms in the country's gaols when foemen assail us. In the latter case the summons would doubtless be gaily responded to, but it is desirable that it should be made in more respectable places.

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TOW that Russia is getting a firmer hold of Turkey, tightening its terrible grip each succeeding day, we again her British interests are in danger. So long as Turkey seemed able to hold her own, little was said on the subject; but as soon as Russia seriously threatens to crush Turkey in her iron grasp, the Government is implored to interpose on behalf of the Turk and in the name of British interests. We are told, in so many words, that if the integrity of Turkey is not respected and guarded then the English Empire itself will crumble into fragments. It is positively amazing, as well as humiliating, to watch the conduct of some journals in this respect. Alike for what they say and how they say it, we cannot help regarding their present attitude as nothing short of a positive disgrace to journalism and literature. Here, for example, were the opening sentences of the first leader in the Daily Telegraph the other day :-

Telegraph the other day:—

"Nothing can be graver for the peace of Europe and the interests of Great Britain than the existing situation. The successes of the Russian arms are gloated over by some among us in a style which would be as mischievous as it is unpatriotic, were it not that the ignorance displayed neutralises the harm which might be done. Just at present there is much to gratify our Anglo-Russians in the progress of this destructive war. By the capture of Kars—to be followed in all probability by the fail of Erzeroum—the Generals of the Czar have gained a hold of Armenia which gives them the command of the Euphrates valley, a demoninant influence over Persia, open roads towards Anatolia and Syria, and, above all, a revenge for the early checks of the campaign which will ring through influence over Persia, open roads towards Anatolia and Syria, and, above all, a revenge for the early checks of the campaign which will ring through Asia, and lead that continent to compare the days of Williams, Lake, and Teesdale with the present aspect of English policy. If it were true that Bulgarian reformation could be advanced by butcheries in Armenia; if it were the fact that Great Britain is not at all concerned in the recurrence of that event to cancel which Lord Palmerston was prepared to wage war in the Caucasus, none the less will Persia, Central Asia, and Mohammedan India regard Kars and Erzeroum as centres of vital import to English trade and English security; and none the less would they view the acquisition by the Czar of Turkish territory there as the abdication of traditional British statesmanship. Parochial politicians naturally cannot understand British statesmanship. Parochial politicians naturally cannot understand this; they find almost as much comfort in adulating the sole autocratic Government left in Europe, as in reviling and misrepresenting those who do comprehend the larger issues of the crisis."

The article, of which this extract is a fair specimen, asks the Govern. ment to step in and save Turkey, and then concludes with these words:-

"And it would be only fair to Russia, in commencing such an interven tion, to let her know that, as she was hitterly deceived about English feeling in the old Crimean years, when the clamour of a few mistaken men was taken for national peacefulness, so she will again be fatally misled if she does not perceive that indifference to British interests exists at present only as the windy echo of a silenced agitation."

This is very much the tone adopted lately by all the Tory and renegade Liberal papers throughout the country. From day to day, and week to week, they are doing their best, so far as we can divine, to prepare the country for a declaration of war on England's part against Russia as the ally of the unspeakable Turk. Those people who do not agree with them are, according to the Telegraph, but poor "parochial politicians," while the Pall Mall Gazette, speaking out with even greater plainness, sets them down as traitors. What the Pall Mall says is this :-

"Discussion is prematurely busy just at present with the anticipated Russian conditions of peace; and the efforts of our Anglo-Russians to secure the acceptance of these terms in advance have reached such a point as to convict their authors either of betrayal of their country or of a fan-aticism so wild as to border upon insanity. There is no choice for them but moral obliquity or mental incapacity. The men who are asserting that a Russian acquisition of Armenia is a matter of total indifference to that a russian acquisition of Armena is a matter of cost indirection to England, and who are supporting this by a gross misrepresentation of their opponents' account of its dangers; the men who are elamouring for the admission of Russia to the Mediterranean, and who are assisting for the admission of Russia to the Mediterranean, and who are assisting this clamour by studious concealment of the true nature of the demand and by confusing the public mind with regard to it—the men, we say, who are doing these things must choose between the guilt of treachery backed by perversion of truth, and the discredit of enslavement to a blinding fanaticism."

Although the Telegraph and the Pall Mall Gazette may be more thorough, more pointed, more blunt, this is the style which is adopted now by the whole of the Ministerial Press. Ugly, disquieting rumours are now by the whole of the ministerial Frees. Ugly, disqueting rumours are rife. It is said that a majority of the Cabinet are in favour of war against Russia. She is expected to seize and stick by Armenia. India, we are assured, will thus be endangered. We must fight Russia, therefore, drive her out of Asia Minor, repeating there all the horrors of the Crimean War. God forbid! An appeal may be made to the country on this very question—war or no war?—within the next few months. Are Liberals ready for the contest? ready for the contest?

A SET-TO BETWEEN TWO BISHOPS.

HE Bishop of Manchester has been cruelly ill-used on his own ground, before his own flock, by his own brother, episcopally speaking, and without having received fair warning of the attack. "Harvey Carlisle," Bishop of the ilk, is the offender; and when we remember that he wrote a short time ago about "villas and all that is villainous," we see at once that he offers almost complete proof of the wisdom of the maxim that the man who would make a pun would commit a murder. Everybody knows how our own episcopal shepherd placed himself at the head of such of his thirsty and dirty flock as were seeking a stream from which to drink and in which to lave their grimy limbs; how with the rapture of a pilgrim in sight of Mecca, they found that Thirlmere could give all that they wanted; but how the episcopal wolf among the Cumberland Fells started up and declared that they should neither drink nor wash with the water that flowed from Thirlmere, as by doing so, they would defile the lake. To this the poor sheep in Manchester humbly replied, like the lamb in the fable, that they could not defile the lake, because the water would flow to them and not from them to the right reverend wolf at its source. Instead, however, of accepting this reasonable explanation, "Harvey Carlisle" has now been to Manchester and worried our own shepherd. It was most heartlessly done. The two bishops were present at a great Church temperance meeting in the Free Trade Hall, and our own genial pastor was naturally led by the appearance of the shining faces of the water drinkers before him to think of their thirst for the sparkling water of Thirlmere. Being in the chair he offered to the Bishop of Carlisle, in introducing him to the meeting, the clive branch in the form of a neat little speech. But the wolf of the fells immediately got up, and being too far from the sheep, the wolf of the fells immediately got up, and being too far from the sheep, he fixed his teeth in the shepherd. He told him that he was in a state of ignorance, that his knowledge of geography had not been well attended to, and that he ought not to have introduced the subject. In conclusion, his Lordship of Carlisle darkly invited his victim to his castle in Cumberland to be "converted;" but whether the operation would be performed on the Bishop of Manchester's mind or body we were not informed, and hardly dared to speculate. The Bishop of Manchester is a big man, but the Bishop of Carlisle displays a massiveness which does honour to a region famous for wrestlers; and as we noted his determined manner on Tuesday night, and reflected on the excitement which must be bred by his being on the same platform with a man who mis determined manner on Tuesday night, and renected on the excitement which must be bried by his being on the same platform with a man who would deal a blow at his esthetic pleasures, we almost feared that he might turn upon his opponent, get his head in chancery, and possibly roll crashing with him upon the reporters' table below. Nothing of the kind, however, happened. Indeed, the thoughtless audience actually laughed at the punishment inflicted on their leader, who tried to hide his sufferings by joining in the laugh; but we fancied we could read from his expression that he appeared to the expression of the the reported expression the care relations with the sufferings by joining in the laugh; but we fancied we could read from his expression that he repented appearing on the same platform with "Harvey Carlisle.'

A WISH.

[BY AN OLD FOGIE.]

'VE found a topic for a song Regard it not, I pray, with scorn. I often wish—I know it's wrong— That I had been a heathen born.

I know the wish is far from good Which I express in random rhymes, But I repeat it here—I would I had been born in heathen times.

There is a Christian whom I love, Although my foe, as Christians can; I wish, as I remarked above, That I had been a heathen man.

The heathen does not love his foe ; I know it's wrong—but I must own,
I wish that I were free to go
And knock his brains out with a stone.

His brains—which I believe are few-I'd scatter gladly, though I know That from a Christian point of view 'Twould not be right to treat them so.

And then, if I had got my wish-It would not matter how it looked— I'd have him served up on a dish; But first, of course, I'd have him cooked.

And then-although I know I em -But I have gone too far I find-I could not eat him if I were The heathenest of human kind.

CHURCH REFORMERS.

HE Church of England wants to reform herself; but she does not know how to go about it. Things are all wrong at present. Her laws are made by a body of men many of whom are Dissenters; while professing to be the Church of the people, her pews are appropriated by the rich; congregations are bought and sold like so many sheep; not a few of her clergy are doing their utmost to land us in rank Roman Catholicism. Churchmen see all this. Touchstone himself sees it. What's to be done? This question is being anxiously discussed wherever and whenever Churchmen meet. It engaged much attention at the Diocesan Conference last week. All exerted themselves in order to discover some means of escape. One unfortunate clergyman caused the members to weep as he told them of his sad fate in having to bury all the lunatics-Dissenting as well as Church lunatics—who cast off their mortal coil in an asylum in his parish. The Dean of Manchester aroused the sympathies of his brethren as he floundered about in search of some decent solution of the knotty problems. in the end, the Bishop called forth a universal sigh by stating that, although they had consulted and talked for two whole days, they had come to no decision on any of the vexed questions before them. His Lordship also hinted that they were agreed upon nothing except the necessity of maintaining the union of Church and State. But how to do this in the face of present difficulties, not a man of them could tell.

The Bishop of Carlisle has been saying something on the subject at Leeds this week. "The Church," he informs us, " said that Parliament ought not to legislate for it; Parliament said the Church ought not to legislate for itself; and the people said they ought not to legislate for each other; and they did not know where they were." This is candid. Churchmen don't know where they are! "Surely," his Lordship goes on, "as reasonable English people, if they only put their heads together in an earnest manner, if they were only at one amongst themselves, if they only knew what they wanted, and were determined to carry out the Church's work in the Church's way, their difficulties might very soon be got But then Churchmen wont put their heads together unless as rams do when they are butting each other; and all the world knows that Churchmen are not at one amongst themselves. Harvey of Carlisle positively alarms us by his bluntness. "The rules which regulate the Church," he proceeds, "had to be made by Parliament, and the Church was very naturally jealous of the interference of a body which, in a certain sense, did not represent it. They seemed, therefore, to have come to a dead lock, with no possibility of what he called 'living legislation.' Several schemes had been proposed for getting out of the difficulty, but he could not see his way to accept any of them."

We are truly sorry for these Church reformers. Our ambition is to help them if we can. Before their cause grows more desperate they would do well, we submit, to send for a supply of the Liberation Society's literature. A cure for their many troubles might be found there. We hope that this piece of advice will be accepted in the spirit in which it is

CAWS OF THE WEEK.

M R. BRIGHT never hits below the belt. He fights well, but he also fights fairly. If he gives the Bishen of The once admits his error. If he seems to the Bishop of Peterborough to have taken some undue advantage, he is too much of an Englishman not to tender a prompt and hearty apology. Yet, even in his apologies, he generally gives as good as he gets. His letter to Bishop Magee is a proof of this. "You will not blame me," he writes, "if I do not believe in the virtue of 'consecration.' I cannot believe in what is called 'holy ground' any more than you can believe in 'holy water,' and for the same reason, that there is nothing it; but it is not necessary to ridicule all that one cannot believe, although it is certain that ridicule has had its share in clearing the world of some portions of the superstitions which have misled and afflicted it."

By the way, although Mr. Bright sent this letter only to the Manchester Examiner, not a few of our daily contemporaries copied it without the slightest intimation of the source from which they got it. These be thy gods, O Israel!

What does the Dean of Manchester mean? Addressing a meeting of Churchmen at Leeds, on Monday night, he said more against the Church

in half-an-hour than we would dare to do in a lifetime. His wrath was launched chiefly against the pew system. They wanted to rouse the people, he said, to the great inheritance which belonged to them, viz., that the whole area of their Parish Church was theirs. The area of the Parish Church belonged to the parishioners, and was held in trust by the parson for their use and benefit. There had been such gross invasions of the rights of the parishioners by the pew system, that they were surprised the people had not risen up in rebellion against it before now. The way in which portions of the area of Parish Churches had been seized had been a fraud upon the rights of the parishioners, just in the same may as it would be a fraud for two or three persons to seize upon a common. The pew system was contrary to the law of the land, contrary to Scriptural precept, and contrary to the requirements of the people. There was nothing about pew rents in the Scriptures or in the Prayer-book, and Churches should be made free and open as one of the means of reviving and strengthening the dear old Church of England. Dean Cowie here charges the Church with fraud. We ourselves would never have dreamt of such a thing. But who can tell what Churchmen, especially Church dignitaries, wont say and do in dull November days like these?

Bz it known unto all men that sundry Cabinet Councils have been held lately. Let it also be proclaimed throughout the land that the Government measures of next session will deal with such important questions as the importation of foreign cattle and dogs' licences! Who says, after this, we don't live in stirring times?

MR. HUGH BIRLEY, M.P., is advancing with the times. Who would have believed it? Yet it is even so. Holding forth at a meeting on Wednesday, the hon. member said he thought the time had arrived when the hostility which prevailed between board schools and voluntary schools should cease. He was not very fond of board schools, and therefore should maintain voluntary schools, but he should argue now, as he had argued before, and as he should argue more strongly if he had the power hereafter, that both board schools and voluntary schools had their own sphere, and that it was necessary both should exist. Mr. Birley will become a good Liberal yet if he only lives long enough, which is, we fear, extremely doubtful.

THE THEATRES.

T the Royal on Monday was produced an adaptation of Wilkie Collins' Dead Secret. In the face of The Woman in White it must be confessed that the anonymous adaptor does not appear to have been over-successful; or it may be that the striking contrast between the two dramas makes us feel the disappointment more. As in the novel, so in the play, the secret becomes no secret at all after the prologue, and almost the entire interest remains centred in the passionate representation by Miss Bateman of the unhappy mother, "Sarah Leeson." Without excepting even "Leah," we never saw Miss Bateman in a character which suited her better, and into which she threw so much heart and soul. The other parts were very evenly filled. Miss Francis was a graceful "Rosamond," while as her husband, a Cornish gentleman, Mr. Beveridge exerted himself as much as the character would admit. It is a pity that the exigencies of the cast led to so fine an actor playing so small a part. A word of commendation is due to Mr. E. D. Lyons, whose "Joseph Buschmann" (a German artist) was pathetic and amusing as occasion required—and never exaggerated.

Pink Dominoes has occupied the stage of the Prince's during the week. The company is the same as that which gave the same play at this theatre a few months ago, and the piece has given the same amusement as before. The negotiations for the sale of the theatre have not yet, we believe, been concluded; but Mr. John Hollingshead, of the London Gaiety, is generally considered to be the most probable purchaser.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Articles intended for insertion must be addressed to the Editor of the *Oity Jackdaw*, 51, Spear Street, Manchester, and must bear the name and address of the sender. We cannot be responsible for the preservation or return of manuscripts sent to us.

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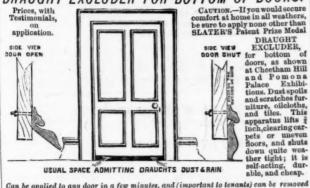
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